

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-6 and 8-21 are pending in the application.

The Examiner rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 5 is correspondingly amended herein. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Dakin et al. (USPA 2003/0102808, hereinafter Dakin). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of amended claim 1, upon which each of claims 2-6 and 8-21 depend.

Dakin does not teach an ionizable salt that includes a molar percentage ratio  $\text{CaI}_2/(\text{NaI} + \text{TlI} + \text{CaI}_2 + \text{Xl}_3)$  of greater than 45%, as claimed in claim 1. Dakin specifically teaches that the molar fraction of the alkaline earth metal halide is between 15 and 45%, and preferably 15-35% (Dakin [0025]).

Because Dakin fails to teach each of the elements of claim 1, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Dakin.

The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Jackson et al. (USPA 2002/0185973, hereinafter Jackson).

Jackson does not specify a molar percentage ratio of the ionizable salt, and cannot be said to teach a molar percentage ratio  $\text{CaI}_2/(\text{NaI} + \text{TlI} + \text{CaI}_2 + \text{Xl}_3)$  of greater than 45%, as claimed in claim 1.

Because Jackson fails to teach each of the elements of claim 1, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Jackson.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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